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ABSTRACT

The college plans of 184 Maryland high school seniors who qualified as National Merit or National Achievement semifinalists were surveyed. Findings include the following: 58 percent of the semifinalists selected a private college and 18 percent chose a public college outside Maryland; 16 percent planned to attend Maryland public institutions, and 7 percent selected a private Maryland college; students who planned to remain in-state (particularly those going to state institutions) had a greater proportion of their expenses met by financial assistance than did students going to out-of-state schools; college choice was affected by the overall reputation of the school and the intended program of study; a greater percentage of black than white semifinalists planned to enroll at a Maryland public institution; and most of the students who decided to remain in Maryland selected either the University of Maryland-College Park (UMCP) or The Johns Hopkins University. Student recommendations included: reducing the size of the UMCP campus, adopting more honors programs, raising admission standards at state institutions, and offering more scholarships and financial aid. The Survey of Academically Talented High School Seniors questionnaire is appended. (SW)

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POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION RESEARCH REPORTS

COLLEGE PLANS OF MARYLAND NATIONAL MERIT AND NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SEMIFINALISTS 1982

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HE 015 885

State Board for Higher Education
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

December, 1982

State of Maryland

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the spring of 1982, the State Board for Higher Education surveyed Maryland high school seniors who qualified as National Merit or National Achievement Semifinalists concerning their college plans. This represented the fourth consecutive year that the SBHE has surveyed this group of graduating seniors.

Major Findings

1. A majority of the Semifinalists (58%) planned to enroll in a private college outside Maryland, while an additional 18% selected an out-of-state public institution. Sixteen percent of the respondents chose one of Maryland's public colleges or universities (the largest share since the survey was begun), and 7% picked an independent institution in the State.

    * A greater percentage of black than white semifinalists planned to enroll at a Maryland public college or university.

    * Most of the students who decided to remain in the State for their college education selected either the University of Maryland-College Park or The Johns Hopkins University.

    * The public out-of-state schools which drew the largest number of respondents were the University of Virginia and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The most popular private institutions outside Maryland were Duke and Princeton.

2. Of the Semifinalists who had already decided on a particular major, 39% planned to pursue engineering; 12%, the biological sciences; 11%, computer science; and 10%, the physical sciences.

3. A majority (51%) of the Semifinalists reported that no more than one-fourth of their first-year college costs would be covered by the financial aid package they had been offered. However, students who planned to remain in-state for their education (particularly those who selected a public institution) had a greater proportion of their expenses met by financial assistance than did those who went to an out-of-state school.

4. The reasons which were cited by the greatest number of Semifinalists as influencing their college choice were the overall reputation of the school, the quality of the program in the student's intended major, and contacts by the institution. The factor which appeared to be most instrumental in attracting the most students to Maryland public colleges was low tuition costs.

5. Almost 90 percent of the respondents indicated that they had been actively recruited by at least one public college or university in the State. However, students reported contacts with Maryland public institutions to be less influential in their attendance decisions than contacts with other types of institutions.

6. The suggestions made most often by the Semifinalists for improving the ability of Maryland public institutions to attract larger number of high ability students were, 1) reduce the size of the UMCP campus, 2) adopt more honors programs for high ability students, 3) enhance the quality of the student body at State institutions by raising admission standards, 4) offer a larger number of scholarships and other financial aid awards, and 5) improve the academic reputation of Maryland schools.

I. INTRODUCTION

Each year since 1979, the State Board for Higher Education has polled Maryland high school seniors who have qualified as National Merit or National Achievement Semifinalists to learn about their college plans. The intentions of these seniors are important to postsecondary education in Maryland, since the reputation of a college or university is based in part on its ability to attract students with strong scholastic credentials. The Maryland Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education provides that each public four-year institution establish or enhance programs to recruit and serve high ability students and upgrade admissions standards. All public four-year institutions have taken actions in these areas. Also, in support of the goal of attracting more academically talented residents to Maryland institutions, the Maryland General Assembly has created the Distinguished Scholar Program to provide renewable, merit-based scholarships to gifted students attending Maryland colleges or universities. The main purposes of conducting this study annually are to evaluate progress in attracting academically talented students and to obtain useful information concerning this group of students.

This report contains the results of the survey of Semifinalists who graduated from high school in the Spring of 1982. Survey participants were asked to identify the college or university they planned to attend and the reasons which were most important in arriving at their decisions, whether they were recruited actively by Maryland institutions, and their educational goals and financial aid arrangements. Students who selected an out-of-state college also were asked to suggest improvements or changes that might make Maryland's public institutions more appealing to academically-talented individuals. In addition to the overall findings, the responses of students are examined in this report in terms of the type of institution they are attending.

Methodology.

Questionnaires were mailed in late April to all 368 Maryland high school seniors who were named 1982 National Merit or National Achievement Semifinalists; the survey instrument was sent to these students in care of their high schools. The study was conducted at the end of the academic year in order to maximize the number of students who had firm college plans. No follow-up mailing was conducted. Twelve questionnaires were returned as undeliverable. Of the remaining Semifinalists, surveys were received from 184 for a response rate of 52%. A copy of the survey instrument is at Appendix A.

Characteristics of Survey Respondents.

To determine how closely the survey participants reflected all National Merit and National Achievement Semifinalists, a comparison was made between the two groups on the basis of two characteristics: sex and the county of the student's high school. As the figures in Table 1 indicate, a greater percentage of women returned the questionnaire than were represented among the Semifinalists. By county of high school attendance, respondents were quite representative of the group of Semifinalists surveyed.

More than three-fourths (76%) of the Semifinalists described their race or ethnic origin as white; 16%, black; 7%, Asian; and 2%, other. More than two-thirds of the students (72%) attended a public high school. Overall, respondents to the survey come from well-educated families. A large majority of both the fathers and mothers of these students (81% and 66%, respectively) were reported to have completed at least a bachelor's degree, with 63% of the fathers and 38% of the mothers having earned a graduate or professional degree.

Table 1

Comparison of Selected Characteristics of Survey Respondents and All Semifinalists

Characteristic	Respondent Group (N=184)	All Semifinalists (N=368)
Sex		
Male	49.5%	57%
Female	50.5	43
County or City of High School		
Montgomery	44%	46%
Baltimore (City and County)	20	22
Prince George's	16	14
Howard	7	8
Harford	3	3
Anne Arundel	3	3
Wicomico	2	1
St. Mary's	1	1
Talbot	1	1
Allegany	1	*
Cecil	1	*
Dorchester	1	*
Worcester	1	*
Frederick	-	1
Carroll	-	*
Washington	-	*

*Less than 0.5 percent

II. RESULTS

Choice of College

Surveys of National Merit and National Achievement Semifinalists in previous years have shown that the majority of these students leave the State to attend college. The results of this year's study, contained in Table 2, show a continuation of this trend.

Nearly all of the survey respondents (98%) reported that they had decided on a particular college. More than three-fourths of these students (76%) planned to enroll in an institution in another state, and a majority (58%) intended to go to a private college or university outside Maryland. The percentage of respondents who selected one of Maryland's public institutions was relatively low (15.6%); however, this represented the largest share of Semifinalists which Maryland public colleges and universities have been able to attract since the survey was begun. Indeed, the percentage of Semifinalists who planned to attend a public rather than a private institution (whether in Maryland or not) was higher than in any previous year of the study. Seven percent of the students chose a Maryland independent institution.

Two Maryland universities were particularly popular with high ability students who planned to remain in-State for their college education. The University of Maryland-College Park (UMCP) was the choice of 24 of the 28 Semifinalists who decided to attend a Maryland public institution; The Johns Hopkins University was selected by 9 of the 13 students who planned to enroll at a Maryland independent institution.

The public out-of-state schools which attracted the largest number of Semifinalists were the University of Virginia (11), Virginia Polytechnic Institute (10), and the University of Delaware (5). The private institutions outside Maryland which were chosen most frequently were Duke (13), Princeton (10), Brown (8), Harvard (7), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (7), and Yale (5). Table 3 lists all out-of-state colleges and universities selected by at least two respondents.

Semifinalists also were asked to name other schools to which they applied. Fifty students reported that they had applied to - but decided not to attend - UMCP, and 11 had done so at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC).

A greater percentage of black than white respondents (35% to 14%) chose a Maryland public institutions (see Table 4). While 77%

Table 2

Colleges Selected by Maryland National Merit and National Achievement Semifinalists, 1979-1982.

Institutions Located in Maryland	1979	1980	1981	1982	
Public Institutions					
UMBC	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	(1)
UMCP	7.6	12.7	8.4	13.3	(24)
UMES	0.6	-	1.3	-	
Salisbury	-	-	-	1.1	(2)
St. Mary's	-	-	0.6	-	
Towson	0.6	-	0.6	0.6	(1)
Subtotal-Public Institutions	9.9%	13.4%	11.6%	15.6%	(28)
Independent Institutions					
Columbia Union	0.6%	0.6%	-	-	
Goucher	-	-	-	0.6%	(1)
Hood	0.6	-	-	-	
Johns Hopkins	4.1	8.9	8.4%	5.0	(9)
Loyola	1.7	2.5	1.3	-	
Notre Dame	-	-	0.6	0.6	(1)
St. John's	-	-	0.6	0.6	(1)
Washington	-	-	-	0.6	(1)
Subtotal-Independent Institutions	7.0%	13.3%	11.0%	7.2%	(13)
U. S. Naval Academy	0.6%	0.6%	1.3%	1.1%	(2)
Total-All Institutions in Maryland	17.4%	27.4%	23.9%	23.9%	(43)
Institutions Located in Other States					
Public	9.3%	14.6%	11.0%	18.3%	(33)
Private	73.3	58.0	65.2	57.8	(104)
Total All Institutions In Other States	82.6%	72.6%	76.1%	76.1%	(137)
	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	(172)	(157)	(155)	(180)	

Table 3

Listing of Out-of-State Colleges and Universities
Which Maryland National Merit and National Achievement
Semifinalists Planned to Attend

Number of Respondents	Institution
13	Duke University
11	University of Virginia
10	Princeton University
10	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
8	Brown University
7	Harvard University
7	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
5	University of Delaware
5	Yale University
3	Cornell University
	Northwestern University
	Wesleyan University
2	Boston University
	Bucknell University
	California Institute of Technology
	Columbia University
	Dartmouth College
	George Washington University
	Oberlin College
	Pennsylvania State University
	United States Military Academy
	University of Notre Dame
	Williams College

Note: Institutions mentioned by only one respondent were not included.

of the white students planned to attend an out-of-state school, only 57% of their black counterparts intended to do so. There was little difference between the college preferences of men and women (see Table 5).

Academic Plans And Financial Assistance

More than two-thirds of the respondents (68.5%) confirmed that they had already decided on an academic major. As Table 6 shows, engineering was the most popular field, selected by 39% of the Semifinalists. Twelve percent planned to study one of the biological sciences; 11%, computer science; and 10%, one of the physical sciences. Of those students going to a Maryland public institution, 41% intended to major in engineering and 18% both in computer science and the physical sciences. Asked whether they planned to seek a degree beyond the baccalaureate, more than two-thirds (68%) said yes, 29% were uncertain, and 3% answered no. About one-third of the students who intend to pursue an advanced degree want to earn a professional degree in law or medicine.

The Semifinalists were asked to approximate the amount of financial aid and the proportion of their first year college costs (tuition, fees, room and board) which would be covered by the financial aid package they had been offered by the college of their choice (see Table 7). A majority of the students (51%) indicated that no more than one-fourth of their expenses would be met by financial assistance. Only slightly more than one-third of the respondents reported that half or more of their costs would be defrayed by financial aid. The median amount of financial support which the Semifinalists estimated they received for their initial year in college was $2,850.

In contrast to the financial aid profile for all Semifinalists, the figures in Table 7 suggest that high ability students who selected a Maryland public or independent institution had a greater percentage of their freshman year expenses covered by financial aid than did their counterparts who chose an out-of-state school. Nearly half (48%) of the Semifinalists who planned to attend a Maryland public college or university reported that their financial aid package would cover more than half of their college expenses (this compares to 34% for in-State independent, 29% for out-of-State independent, and 13% for out-of-State public). Indeed, nearly one of every five students attending a Maryland public institution indicated that all of their college costs would be met by financial assistance. Students attending a Maryland public institution reported a median amount of financial aid received of $2,503. This compares favorably with the median reported for all semifinalists ($2,850), particularly considering the relatively lower expenses incurred at an in-State public institution.

Reasons For Choice Of Institution

Table 4

Choice of College by Race

	Public Out-of-State	Private Out-of-State	Public Maryland	Private Maryland	
White	20%	57	14	9	100% (138)
Black	9%	48	35	9	100% (23)
Asian	0%	92	8	0	100% (12)

Table 5

Choice of College by Sex

	Public Out-of-State	Private Out-of-State	Public Maryland	Private Maryland	
Male	19%	55	16	11	100% (86)
Female	16%	62	15	7	100% (92)

Table 6

Choice of College by Academic Major

	All Students	Public Out-of-State	Private Out-of-State	Public Maryland	Private Maryland
Agriculture & Nat. Resources	2%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Architecture	1	4	0	0	0
Biological Sciences	12	13	14	9	9
Business Management	4	8	5	0	0
Computer Sciences	11	4	8	18	9
Education	1	0	2	0	0
Engineering	39	50	34	41	27
Fine & Applied Arts	3	0	3	9	0
Health Professions	1	0	2	0	0
Letters	5	4	7	0	9
Mathematics	3	4	3	0	9
Physical Sciences	10	0	9	18	27
Psychology	3	0	2	5	9
Social Sciences	7	4	12	0	0
	100% (116)	100% (24)	100% (59)	100% (22)	100% (11)

Table 7

Choice of College by Percentage of First-Year Educational Costs Covered by Financial Aid Package

	0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-99%	100%	
All Students	51%	16%	17%	9%	8%	100% (175)
Public Out-of-State	45%	29%	13%	0%	0%	100% (31)
Private Out-of-State	61%	9%	15%	12%	2%	100% (98)
Public Maryland	33%	19%	22%	7%	19%	100% (27)
Private Maryland	33%	33%	27%	7%	0%	100% (15)

Respondents were asked to indicate how important a number of factors were in their choice of a college or university. Table 8 contains the percentage of Semifinalists who rated each item as "very important" to their decision. The reasons which appeared to be instrumental in attracting the greatest number of students were the overall reputation of the school (73%), the quality of the program in the student's major (62%), and contacts by the college (53%). The size of the institution was a key consideration for 41 percent of the respondents, while 30 percent or more cited a desire to live away from home, special programs for academically-talented students, and a better financial aid offer. Several other reasons were frequently written on the questionnaire by respondents: a good impression of the students and faculty at the chosen institution, a desire to attend college in a metropolitan area, receipt of a specific scholarship, and the appearance and atmosphere of the school.

A greater proportion of the Semifinalists who selected a Maryland public college or university deemed financial factors to be very important in their decision, and fewer of these students were influenced by the reputation of the school. Seventy percent of the respondents who are enrolling at a Maryland public institution cited low tuition costs as a very important reason for their choice - a larger percentage than any other factor. In contrast, only half of the students selecting public out-of-state institutions, 3 percent of those choosing a private out-of-state, and no one from a Maryland independent institution considered tuition costs to be very important to their decision. While 41 percent of the Semifinalists who selected a public college or university in Maryland suggested that a better financial aid offer was a very important factor in their determination of a school, fewer of the students who plan to enroll in other institutions gave a high rating to this item.

On the other hand, while a substantial majority of the respondents who chose a private or public out-of-state institution or a Maryland independent college (81%, 71%, and 64%, respectively) considered the reputation of their schools a very important reason for their decision, less than half (41%) of the students who plan to attend a Maryland public college or university were attracted by this factor. Nonetheless, 59 percent of the students who selected a Maryland public institution reported that they were strongly persuaded to attend by the presence of a superior program in their intended major. Hence, unlike other Semifinalists, more students who selected a Maryland public college were influenced by the strength of a particular academic program than by the overall reputation of the institution.

With respect to recruiting efforts, less than half of the Semifinalists who chose a Maryland public college or university (39%) considered favorable contacts by the school to be a very important reason for their decision to enroll there; in contrast, this factor was deemed to be very important by a majority of the respondents who planned to attend each of the other kinds of

Table 8

Percentage of Semifinalists Who Rated Certain Factors As Being Very Important to Their Decision to Attend a Type of Postsecondary Education

	All Students	Public Out-of-State	Private Out-of-State	Public Maryland	Private Maryland
Overall reputation of school	73%	71%	81%	41%	64%
Had superior program in your intended major	62	63	59	59	77
Contacts by school made a good impression	53	53	57	39	57
Size of institution	41	13	55	26	43
Wanted to live away from home	37	53	37	22	23
Special programs for academically talented students	35	47	30	41	43
Better financial assistance offered	30	25	27	41	33
Wanted to go to school in the geographic area	24	23	21	44	21
Graduate programs in major	22	24	16	22	64
Tuition costs are less	22	50	3	70	0
Knew more about it than other schools	13	14	11	22	14
Parent(s) felt it was best choice	9	0	12	7	21
Religious considerations	6	7	6	7	8
Have friends going to school there	6	9	4	22	0
Other relatives of friends went there	6	0	8	12	0
Wanted to commute home easily on weekends	4	0	3	15	7

Table 8 (Cont'd)

Percentage of Semifinalists Who Rated Certain Factors As Being Very Important to Their Decision to Attend a Type of Postsecondary Education

	All Students	Public Out-of-State	Private Out-of-State	Public Maryland	Private Maryland
Teacher or counselor recommended it	4	3	5	0	0
Wanted to commute daily	3	0	3	15	7
Parent(s) attended school there	2	0	4	0	0
	100% (175)	100% (31)	100% (98)	100% (27)	100% (15)

institutions. This result was obtained despite the fact that a substantial majority of the survey participants (87.5%) reported that they had been actively recruited by one or more public colleges or universities in Maryland. The institutions mentioned by the largest number of Semifinalists were UMCP and UMBC (65% and 46%, respectively). It should be noted that students who planned to enroll at a State public college or university were not contacted by these institutions in greater proportion than were those who selected another type of school (see Table 9).

As might be expected, more of the Semifinalists who selected a Maryland public institution were apparently influenced by the opportunity to live closer to home or to friends. A greater percentage of these students rated these factors as very important to their college choice: preferred to go to school in the geographic area, wanted to commute home easily on weekends, and desired to attend a school where one's friends are going.

The above responses corresponded closely to the written observations made by Semifinalists who selected a Maryland public college or university to an open-ended question, which asked them to share their overall reasoning for choosing their institution over others. The factors mentioned most often were: 1) the comparatively lower cost of attending a Maryland public school, 2) the perceived quality of the program in the student's planned major, 3) a generous financial aid offer, 4) the wide variety of academic fields available to undergraduates at the college, and 5) the convenient location in relation to one's home. Sample comments:

> The main reason that I decided to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, is the combination of low cost and good quality education available there. If I were to attend a private institution, financing would be difficult and I would probably be in debt when I graduated. The combination of merit awards and low cost made the University of Maryland the most reasonable institution. The academic aspects that I favor are: the general and departmental honors programs, the resources available and the relative strength of the University in the sciences. Also, the fact that I am a Chancellor's Scholar will help counteract the impersonality of such a large institution.

> The University of Maryland at College Park provides excellent opportunities for academic achievement and research in my field. They offered me a full tuition four-year scholarship based on academic merit. Its proximity allows me to keep close contact with my family, while its large size offers the chance for exposure to others and experience with which to broaden my personality and ideas as a young adult.

Table 9

"Were You Actively Recruited by Any Public Colleges or Universities in Maryland?"

	Yes	No	
All Students	87.5%	12.5%	100% (176)
Public Out-of-State	83.0	17.0	100% (29)
Private Out-of-State	92.0	8.0	100% (101)
Public Maryland	81.5	18.5	100% (27)
Private Maryland	69.0	31.0	100% (13)

I initially considered the University of Maryland at College Park because of its excellent program in my choice for a major, engineering. After receiving three four-year scholarships for Maryland, including the Chancellor's scholarship, I opted to attend UMCP in lieu of the other schools which accepted me. Unlike the financial aid offered by the other schools, the scholarships at UMCP had no stipulations on what I had to study, and the aid package did not automatically include a job during the school year, which I wanted to avoid so that I could concentrate on my studies.

The University of Maryland, College Park campus, is impressive in that an immensely varied program is offered there, with incentives including national academic standing. Very outstanding, however, in my reasoning for choosing this institution over others, was the tuition costs, which are comparatively low.

The University of Maryland, College Park was close to home, had a good program in my major, and my way was paid.

Students who were not planning to attend a Maryland public college or university were asked to suggest changes or improvements which might make these institutions more attractive to academically-talented undergraduates. The remedies most frequently advanced by these Semifinalists were: 1) reduce the size of the UMCP campus, 2) adopt more special "honors" programs for high ability students, 3) enhance the quality of the student body at State institutions by raising admission standards, 4) offer a larger number of scholarships and other merit-based financial aid awards, and 5) improve the academic reputation of Maryland schools. Some typical recommendations:

I think that UMCP is on the right track with raising admissions standards and with the Honors Program; most Maryland public colleges and universities simply do not have the academic reputations to make them the most desirable choices for academically-talented students. For students to whom financial assistance is one of the most important considerations in choosing a college, financial aid may help influence them to attend a Maryland public college. However, to many students low cost is not nearly as great a lure as academic reputation. Perhaps by making admissions standards higher and improving the quality of academic programs, eventually - though it will take time - Maryland public colleges will be thought of as a challenging, stimulating atmosphere for talented students instead of an "anyone-can-get-in-last resort."

I think that in order to make Maryland public colleges more attractive to academically-talented students, State schools need to create a reputation for academic excellence. I understand that the honors program at the University of Maryland is very good, and I might consider it were I applying to schools all over again. Maryland's public colleges, however, are not considered to be among the best schools in the country. I realize that it is difficult to reconcile academic elitism with public education, but I recommend that Maryland make one of its State campuses a highly selective school that can earn the reputation needed to attract outstanding students and faculty.

The reason that academically-talented students are not attracted to Maryland schools is that there are very few prestigious schools in Maryland. St. John's, Goucher, and Johns Hopkins are the most attractive schools in Maryland, but unfortunately the tuitions required at these schools are outrageous. In order for talented students to be attracted to public schools in Maryland, the schools must upgrade their honors programs. For example, the honors programs at University of Delaware and University of Virginia have much better reputations than that of University of Maryland, supposedly a comparable school.

I think that UMCP has a lot to offer academically-talented students, but many think that they will "get lost in the crowd" at such a large campus. I believe that UMCP is especially attractive in these days of rising tuition, but I prefer a smaller school despite the higher cost.

Those schools in Maryland that have the reputation I desire are too large. Those schools that were the right size (about 3,000) don't have the national reputation. In all honesty, I wanted to attend a school farther from home, out-of-state.

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APPENDIX A

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Maryland State Board for Higher Education

SURVEY OF ACADEMICALLY TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Please fill in blanks or circle the number for the most appropriate response.

1. What is your sex?
   1-Male
   2-Female

2. What is your race/ethnic origin?
   1-Asian
   2-Black
   3-Hispanic
   4-White
   5-Other

3. In what county or city do you live?

   _____

4. In what county or city is your high school located?

   _____

5. Is this a public or private school?
   1-Public
   2-Private

6. What is the highest level of formal education completed by your parents?

Father	Mother	
1	1	Attended elementary school
2	2	Completed elementary school
3	3	Attended high school
4	4	Completed high school
5	5	Attended some college
6	6	Completed 2-year degree
7	7	Completed Bachelors degree
8	8	Completed Master's degree
9	9	Completed Doctorate/Professional degree

7. Do you plan to attend college next Fall?
   1-Yes ——→ If Yes, continue with question 8
   2-No
   3-Undecided

If you do not plan to attend college next Fall or are undecided, you should stop here. The rest of the questionnaire does not apply to you. Please return the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope.

We thank you for your help and time.

8. Have you decided which college you will attend next Fall?
   1-Yes
   2-No ——→ If No, skip to question 14

In responding to questions 9 and 10, if referring to a multicampus university, specify which campus. For example, instead of writing "University of Maryland" you should write "Univ. of Md-College Park", or "Univ. of Md.-Balto. Co."; etc.

9. Which college or university do you plan to attend next Fall?

   _____

10. Which other colleges or universities did you actually apply to?

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

11. When did you make your final decision about what college or university you would attend?
    1-Senior year
    2-Junior year
    3-Sophomore year or earlier

12. Circle the type and write the approximate amount of financial aid you have been offered for the FIRST year at the college or university you plan to attend next Fall:

	$ Amount
1-National Merit Scholarship	_____
2-State/campus scholarships/ grants awarded mostly on academic achievement	_____
3-Scholarships or grants from businesses, foundations, etc. awarded mostly on academic achievement	_____
4-Federal/State/campus grants awarded mostly on financial need	_____
5-Loans	_____
6-Work-Study	_____
7-Other(s):	
_____	_____
_____	_____
8-None	

13. Approximately what proportion of your first year college costs (tuition and fees, room and board) will be covered by the financial aid package you have been offered at the college you plan to attend next fall?
    1- 0-25%
    2- 26-50%
    3- 51-75%
    4- 76-99%
    5- 100%

(over)

14. a. Have you decided what undergraduate program or major you will pursue?
    1-Yes
    2-No

    b. If Yes, what is this major?

    _____

15. Do you now plan to pursue higher education beyond the bachelor's degree?
    1-Yes, for a degree in Law
    2-Yes, for a degree in Medicine
    3-Yes, for a graduate degree in other field
    4-No
    5-Uncertain at this time.

16. Please rate how important was each of the factors listed below in your choice of a college or university. Using the following scale write the appropriate rating in the blank next to each factor:
    1-Very important
    2-Somewhat important
    3-Not at all important

    a. Overall reputation of the school ____
    b. Had a superior program in your intended major ____
    c. Better financial assistance offered ____
    d. Wanted to live away from home ____
    e. Parent(s) attended school there ____
    f. Parent(s) felt it was the best choice ____
    g. Wanted to commute daily ____
    h. Wanted to easily commute home on weekends ____
    i. Have friends going to school there ____
    j. Tuition costs are less ____
    k. Teacher or counselor recommended it ____
    l. Knew more about it than other school ____
    m. Wanted to go to school in the geographic area ____
    n. Other relatives or friends went there ____
    o. Special programs for academically talented students ____
    p. Size of institution ____
    q. Contacts by the school made a good impression ____
    r. Graduate programs in major ____
    s. Religious considerations ____
    t. Other reason(s):

    _____

    _____

17. a. Were you actively recruited by any public colleges or universities in Maryland?
    1-Yes
    1-No
    b. If yes, which colleges or universities?

    _____

    _____

18. a. If you plan to attend a PUBLIC college or university in Maryland, please share with us your overall reasoning for making that decision, especially why you chose a public Maryland institution over other colleges and universities.

    b. If you plan to attend an out-of-state institution or a private institution in Maryland, please suggest changes or improvements that you think would make Maryland's public colleges and universities more attractive to academically talented students like yourself.

Thank you very much for your help and time. If you'd like to receive a copy of the survey report when it is completed, please fill in your name and home address below:

Name _____

Street _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS SURVEY IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE.

If the envelope is misplaced, the mailing address is:

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